

REMARKS

The non-final Office Action of September 3, 2008, has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-4, 7-8, 12, 14, 22-23, 29, 41, 49-50, 53, and 61-66 have been amended to place the claims in a more preferred form. Claims 5-6, 9-10, 16-19, 25-28, 30-40, 42-48, 51, 54, 57-60, and 67 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 68-71 have been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-4, 7-8, 11-15, 20-24, 29, 41, 49-50, 52-53, 55-56, 61-66, and 68-71 remain pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that the application contains allowable subject matter. Specifically, claims 41, 49, 50, 52, 53, 55, 56, and 61-66 are allowed, while claims 1-4, 6-16, 20-24, and 26-29 were rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 20 and 24 of U.S. Patent No. 7,298,697. Without acquiescing and in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants submit a Terminal Disclaimer and appropriate fee herewith. Thus, all claims are in condition for allowance.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,
BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated this 3rd day of February, 2009 By:

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